



# The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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## Let's Talk Guppies

By Elvis Bryant

My favorite subject, outside of eating, is the Half Black Yellow. Half Black Yellows are without a doubt the hardest guppy to raise. Let me relate the various problems that they present.

A: Keeping the pure butter yellow color is the greatest challenge that any hobbyist must master.

B: Keeping the body size from dwindling into nothing. Body sizes is very important, for without a good body no judge will give your guppy a second look.

Breeding brothers and sisters is the best way to keep the Half Black Yellows strong and vibrant. You must have a minimum of three lines of Half Black Yellows, not directly related but distant cousins. (Most of the original Half Black Yellows are from the original stock from Germany.) This is a must if you are to keep the lines pure and colorful. And this doesn't mean you have to breed every male to every female. Pick your male by the color first, then the body size. Then the female for color first, then body size. This will give you the best chance of producing the best offspring. The blood lines of the Half Black Yellows are too closely wound in inbreeding to keep the present lines from producing the proper size and color. For example, if you purchase Half Black Yellows from me, you will know that the line has been bred no more than three generations, so you will have to breed the Half Black Yellows at least one generation to produce your young, or no more than three times.

So, we end up breeding the same generation five or six times at this point, not good but not bad, but you will see the declining of the things we talked about earlier. This downward curve can be avoided by simply buying more than one trio from one line of the same color. Inquire about the different lines available of the color you wish to purchase. I encourage hobbyists to buy more than one line. Many do, many don't.

How do I keep the lines from going downward? You must select from the various different lines the best male and best female as pointed out earlier, from outside lines to breed.

This will enable you to avoid the pitfalls of too much inbreeding your guppies. What if your second line has been inbred too long? Good question, but then again, an easy answer. When you select your breeders, choose males from Line A and females from Line B Reverse this selection by selecting males from Line B and females from Line A. You can continue this process many times using the same formula.

This is not foolproof, in breeding guppies, nothing is foolproof. But you will find the addition of the third line of Half Black Yellows will be for greater beneficial value when selecting only the best of all lines, biggest males, females with size and color needed to continue with your breeding the Half Black Yellows.

A word of extreme caution, do NOT feed any color foods to these Half Black Yellows. If you don't have good yellow colors, feeding color food will not help. It will only destroy the guppy itself. The best step is to find a better yellow color than you have.

There is no way of predicting outcomes of crosses, only the naked eye can tell you of any success or failures. But don't stop! Throw away those that are not up to your quality, and start over. And don't breed inferior guppies to each other, you will only find "garbage in, garbage out".

In conclusion, breed the Half Black Yellows until you are satisfied.

At present, I maintain five different Half Black Yellows because I made the mistake I am talking to you about. I waited too long to select my breeders for the next generation, my selection was wrong, I went back to the original line and tried inbreeding one more time, but the Half Black Yellows were too inbred and the results were terrible. No color, no body size. and worst of all, no guppies for the shows.

I tried crossing the Half Black Yellows to the Half Black Pastels. But the cross was flawed, the dominant Pastel gene was dominant to my Yellow gene, and the results were big guppies but without the beautiful Yellow color. So read and learn, listen to hobbyists who are willing to tell you of their mistakes, so you can avoid the same one committed.

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